

Date Mailed
August 1, 2001

BEFORE THE
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF WISCONSIN

Complaint of Midwest Natural Gas Inc Against Extension Practices
of Northern States Power Company

4220-GI-101

**NOTICE OF INVESTIGATION,
ASSESSMENT OF COSTS, AND PREHEARING CONFERENCE**

Prehearing Conference Date:	Monday, August 27, 2001 – 1:30 p.m.
Conference Location:	Public Service Commission, 610 North Whitney Way, Madison, WI

THIS IS AN INVESTIGATION to address the complaint filed by Midwest Natural Gas, Inc. (MNG) on August 7, 2000, against Northern States Power Company – Wisconsin (NSPW) for alleged violations of NSPW's extension practices. NSPW initially filed an answer to the complaint with the Commission on August 16, 2000.

MNG filed a complaint requesting the Commission conduct an investigation into the construction by NSWP of gas main on Boundary Road in the towns of Warren and Kinnickinnic (Hudson-Troy construction project). The complaint alleged that NSPW's construction was in unauthorized service territory; that it was larger than necessary to serve the potential customers; was not installed in compliance with NSPW's filed tariffs; and that it violated the company's extension rules. MNG asked the Commission to investigate NSPW's Boundary Road construction activities under its extension rules and to bar such extension.

The Commission considered the complaint and directed Commission staff to proceed with an investigation. The Commission limited the investigation to an examination of NSPW's compliance with NSPW's filed extension tariffs as they apply to the Hudson-Troy construction project.

NOTICE IS GIVEN that the Commission will hold a prehearing conference on Monday, August 27, 2001, at 1:30 p.m. in the Amnicon Falls Hearing Room at the Public Service Commission Building, 610 North Whitney Way, Madison, Wisconsin, and continuing at times to be set by the presiding Administrative Law Judge. This building is accessible to people in wheelchairs through the Whitney Way first floor (lobby) entrance. Parking for people with

disabilities is available on the south side of the building. Any person with a disability who needs additional accommodations should contact the case coordinator listed below.

The prehearing conference is being held to: (1) determine if a stipulation of facts can be reached; (2) identify issues; (3) determine the date and time for a hearing; (4) specify dates for filing testimony and exhibits; and (5) any other matters that will facilitate the hearing.

The Commission delegates to the Natural Gas Division Administrator the authority to make a proposed decision in this investigation pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 196.02(1).

The Commission considers it necessary, in order to carry out its duties, to investigate all books, accounts, practices, and activities of NSPW. The expenses incurred or to be incurred by the Commission which are reasonably attributable to such an investigation will be assessed against and collected from NSPW in accordance with the provisions of Wis. Stat. § 196.85 and Wis. Admin. Code ch. PSC 5.

The Commission does not discriminate on the basis of disability in the provision of programs, services, or employment. Any person with a disability who needs accommodations or who needs to obtain this document in a different format should contact the docket coordinator listed below.

Questions regarding the process may be directed to Administrative Law Judge David C. Whitcomb, Public Service Commission of Wisconsin, P.O. Box 7854, Madison, Wisconsin 53707-7854.

Questions from the media may be directed to Jeffrey L. Butson, Public Affairs Director at (608) 267-0912.

Questions regarding this matter may be directed to docket coordinator Dan Sage at (608) 267-9486.

Dated at Madison, Wisconsin, _____

By the Commission:

Lynda L. Dorr
Secretary to the Commission

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